



Newsletter for friends of
Coatesville VA Medical Center

Summer 2011

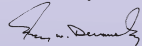
Director's Message

Recently, the Department of Veterans Affairs introduced *I CARE*, a new set of core values. Core values define "who we are," our culture and how we care for Veterans, their families and other beneficiaries.

The Values are Integrity, Commitment, Advocacy, Respect and Excellence. The values also form the *I CARE* phrase, which illustrates the sum of all these values. I believe that Coatesville Veterans Affairs Medical Center employees have always embodied these values and so, living the *I CARE* ideals is second nature.

Our goal is for every Veteran to feel they have been treated in accordance with these ideals and that each employee displays integrity, commitment, advocacy, respect and excellence.

Sincerely,



Gary W. Devansky, Director

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These men found each other and discovered a common interest – beautiful singing. They met by chance in one of the tunnels, but they think it was meant to be – and for good reason. Together, they create beautiful harmonies centered on God and His influence in their lives. Some song titles include Now is the Time, Get on Board and Woman at the Well.

They have amazed Veterans and employees alike at many on campus events. In June, they competed as finalists in the Ogantz Avenue Revitalization Corporation's Rising Star Talent Search in Philadelphia. Most recently, they placed as finalists in the VA's National Creative Arts Festival. Recreation Therapy is assisting in planning and sponsoring their travel to the festival this fall where they will perform Get on Board, their winning, original song. Congratulations and best of luck to the Men of Jubilee!

New Pharmacy Open for Business

This spring, the medical center's brand new Pharmacy opened in Building 2, second floor. The project, which expanded the entire Pharmacy from 5,700 square feet to 9,700 square feet was completed to keep pace with demand and provide the best possible service to Veterans. The improvements provide a larger and more centralized space for pharmacy operations, and enable four Veterans to be counseled separately at one time. Additionally, there is a private area where a Veteran and pharmacist can sit face-to-face.

The \$2.2 million renovation was made possible by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. It was completed by Fidelis Design and Construction, a service-disabled, veteran-owned small business.



Bronze Star Awarded

Recently, it came to the attention of Community & Congressional Affairs staff that Veteran Larry Sweigart earned a Bronze Star while serving in Vietnam, but had not received it. More than 40 years later, they did something about it. At the June Veterans Advisory Council meeting, Mr. Sweigart was presented with the award. Susan, his wife, stood proudly by his side as Director of Community & Congressional Affairs Kirk Fernitz and Chief of Voluntary Service Earl Johnson performed an official medal presentation ceremony.



Get on Board



Some of you have been lucky enough to hear the sounds of the Men of Jubilee. They are a group of five Veterans living at LZII and Fresh Start including Merlin Lee Burgess, Leonard McKinney, Richard Skipwith, Oscar Williams and Ben Benton.

Always Attracting Excellence

The Magnet Journey began in January 2011. Magnet Recognition is a hospital accreditation granted by the American Nurses Credentialing Center. It is a years-long journey in providing the most excellent health care and treatment to the Veterans we serve.

Any Veteran, volunteer, employee, community member, etc. who observes or experiences excellent health care is encouraged to let us know about it. Simply document your observation and drop it into one of the Magnet boxes located throughout the campus.



Veterans WEEK 2011 Set

Each year, Coatesville Veterans Affairs Medical Center honors our Veterans for an entire week in celebration of Veterans Day. The festivities this year are set to begin on Wednesday, November 2 and run through Friday, November 11. A committee is currently planning activities including a gospel concert, interfaith service, various luncheons and flag raising ceremonies, parade, and banquet. Any group interested in participating in the parade should call Paula Wyatt at 610-384-7711, extension 5005. Questions about the celebration in general should be directed to Community & Congressional Affairs at extension 2230.

Getting Veterans Jobs

Marcus Blanks, Karen Drewry, Tom Erskine, and Janet Morrison are the newest Work Restoration Team members. They assist homeless Veterans with attaining and maintaining competitive employment. As Veterans themselves, these new hires really understand the needs of those who they are helping. The program is part of Secretary Shinseki's initiative to end homelessness among Veterans. Congratulations to the team and best wishes serving your fellow Veterans!



Girl Scout Volunteer Receives Top Honor

On March 27, Juliana Frederick, a girl scout who made 'Banners of Love' for our Community Living Center residents, was presented with the Gold award, which is the highest honor that can be given to a girl scout. The award was for her 'Banners of Love' project that began with one she made for her cousin, who was in Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Director of Geriatrics & Extended Care Denise O'Donnell presented Juliana with a Pride in Public Service Award signed by Director Gary W. Devansky. Thank you, Juliana! Your gifts and time make a difference in the lives of our Veterans.

Sign Project Concluding

After more than three years, the patient-centric signage project is nearing completion. No doubt, you have noticed the attractive, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant signs around campus. Four sign classifications include: directional (how to get places, including maps); room identification (number and purpose); life safety (identifying stairwells, AED units and emergency exit plans); and display. This was a huge project because of our medical center's size and layout. We hope that finding your way around campus has become a little bit easier.

Caregiver Support Conference

You're there to support your Veteran. We're here to support you. All veteran caregivers are invited to the annual Caregiver Support Conference. It will take place Wednesday, November 16 at the medical center. Topics covered to include: caregiver self-care, managing stress, recent legislation and various medical conditions such as dementia, post traumatic stress disorder and neurological diseases. Details will be forthcoming. Questions should be directed to Caregiver Support Coordinator Maureen Miller at 610-384-7711 extension 5600.

Join us on Facebook

Status Update: Coatesville VA Medical Center is now on Facebook. Check it out at www.facebook.com/coatesvillevamc. You can get up-to-the-minute information about the medical center and your healthcare. We are very excited about this additional way to communicate with Veterans, volunteers, employees and friends. You can also register for email updates through our Website at www.coatesville.va.gov.



690 S. Creek Rd.
West Chester, PA 19382

Brandywine Picnic Park

(Check out <http://picnic.com/picnicpark.php> for more about the park)

HILLTOPICS

Hilltopics is published quarterly for friends of Coatesville VA Medical Center. Please address suggestions, comments or story ideas to: Kathleen Pomorski, extension 4203 or kathleen.pomorski@va.gov. The editor reserves the right to make changes and/or edits. Layout/design/photography provided by CVAMC Medical Media Service.

Welcome Home, American Hero!

The fifth annual Welcome Home Celebration for Iraq and Afghanistan war Veterans will take place Saturday, August 27 at Brandywine Picnic Park in West Chester. The event serves to provide VA benefit and health care information to Veterans while offering fun for the whole family. Questions should be directed to 610-384-7711, extension 5160. Registration officially closes on August 1, 2011.